

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been currently amended. Claims 12 and 13 have been added. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

In response to Examiner's objections of the drawings, Figure 2 has been amended and a replacement sheet has been included herewith. Further, the specification has been amended in response to Examiner's objections. Now new subject matter has been added.

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as assertedly being anticipated by Lehman (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0048939 A1, hereinafter "Lehman"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1, specifically recites "combining measurement results associated with the measured optical properties with the correction data record associated with the mask in a data processing device to produce a corrected measurement result." The disclosure by Lehman does not suggest or teach combining the measurement result to produce a corrected measurement result. Rather, the disclosure of Lehman teaches an inspection process to identify defects. For example, see abstract of Lehman or Figure 1, box 7. Hence, independent claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Claim 9 specifically recites "means for combining measurement results of the optically measurable properties of the mask with the correction data record associated with the mask to produce a corrected measurement result." The disclosure by Lehman does not suggest or teach a

means for combining the measurement results to produce a corrected measurement result.

Rather, the disclosure of Lehman teaches an inspection process to identify defects. For example, in Lehman, see abstract or Figure 1, box 7. Hence, independent claim 9 is allowable.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 9 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Claims 12 and 13 are newly added and specifically recites "the correction data record includes information for the correction of inhomogeneities of an illumination system." The disclosure by Lehman does not suggest or teach correction of inhomogeneities of an illumination system. Hence, independent claims 12 and 13 are allowable. No new matter is added.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Ira S. Matsil, Applicants' attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. In the event the enclosed fees are insufficient, please charge any additional fees required, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

8/21/07
Date

SLATER & MATSIL, L.L.P.
17950 Preston Rd., Suite 1000
Dallas, Texas 75252
Tel.: 972-732-1001
Fax: 972-732-9218

Respectfully submitted,



Ira S. Matsil
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 35,272